

**Connecticut Department of Transportation**

**State Project No. 133-97  
Superstructure Replacement of Bridge No. 01291  
Town of Sprague**

**August 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Sprague Town Hall  
1 Main St, Baltic, CT 06330**

**Minutes of Public Informational Meeting**

**Present:**

Catherine Osten – First Selectman of Sprague  
George W. Allen – Assistant Department Chief of the Baltic Fire Department  
Four (4) Private Residents  
Mary Baker – Department of Transportation (Department)  
Jeffrey Cheng – Department  
Michael Lajoie – Department  
Patrick Shea – Department  
Michelle Miller – Department  
Mark Elliott - Department

**Presentation:** The presentation began at approximately 7:00 p.m. with an introduction made by Jeffrey Cheng to the Town officials and representatives of the Department. Jeffrey Cheng concluded his introduction with the project schedule, cost and funding. Jeffrey Cheng then introduced Michael Lajoie who presented the existing condition of the structure (bridge geometry and deterioration) and proposed scope of work. Following Mike, Patrick Shea presented the benefits of Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC), traffic considerations, and the proposed detour route. Michelle Miller from the Department's Office of Rights of Way presented the process of property acquisitions. A question and answer period followed.

The following were key points of the presentation:

- Project Schedule
- Project Cost and Funding
- The existing bridge conditions and rate of deterioration, and reasoning for superstructure replacement
- Proposed bridge rail will match that of the newly constructed bridge near the project location
- Proposed temporary utility relocation to accommodate the use of construction equipment when removing and constructing the bridge
- Benefits of ABC
- Eight week road closure with proposed state road detour
- Rights of way consideration and rights of way acquisition process

**Public Comments and Questions:**

- A resident questioned where the utility pole of concern will be relocated to.
  - Response: The utility pole will be relocated to the lawn area in front of the post office.
- A resident was concerned with parking at the post office and library during the road closure.
  - Response: Parking lots for the post office and library will remain accessible to the public during the road closure.
- A few of the residents were concerned about the 8 week closure and whether a shorter a duration was possible.
  - Response: The Department anticipates a maximum road closure of 8 weeks but will investigate further during design to possibly shorten the duration.
- A suggestion was proposed to turn High Street from a one way street to a two way street and eliminate parking on both sides to accommodate a local road detour in place of the 7 mile state road detour.
  - Response: The First Selectman will discuss further with business owners on High Street and will coordinate with the Department for a possible local road detour. However, Department will advertise and sign the state road detour for through traffic.
- The Fire Department had concerns the High Street detour would be difficult for fire trucks to maneuver through in the case of emergencies.
  - It was noted that the Town may request mutual aid from adjacent towns.
- A resident asked if the Bridge will last another two years.
  - Response: The Department explained that the bridge is not in a state of emergency and that the deterioration is typical for a bridge that was constructed in 1938. Department is confident that the bridge will remain fully functional until the construction phase. The Department will warn the Town and public if the bridge is ever unsafe for travel.
- The Fire Department wanted to know specific dates for the construction phase.
  - Response: Department will provide the Town with more definitive dates as design is progressed.
- A pizza restaurant owner stated her concern regarding deliveries to her restaurant during the 8 week road closure (restaurant is on one-way section of High St.).
  - Response: Further discussion and coordination with the town and restaurant are necessary to address this concern.
- There were concerns with postal truck routes during the 8 week road closure.
  - Response: First Selectwoman suggested logistics could be handled internally once the detour duration has been finalized.

**Adjournment:** The project was generally well received by all in attendance although residents expressed concern regarding the detour route and duration of the road closure. It was noted that the Town will coordinate with local business owners and the Department to further investigate a local road detour for residents. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.